



REFUGIO AMAZONAS-TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER SIX NIGHT PARROT LOVERS PROGRAM

6 NIGHT PROGRAM

Day 1

Arrival & Reception by Parrot Guide. All parrot lover guides have worked in the Macaw Research Project for at least one season. In this manner they are not only familiar with the different species of psittacines, but are also well acquainted with macaw biology and conservation. They also have plenty of anecdotes of life as a macaw researcher.

Transfer Airport to Puerto Maldonado Headquarters. Upon arrival from Lima or Cusco, we will welcome you at the airport and drive you ten minutes to our Puerto Maldonado headquarters. While enjoying your first taste of the forest in our gardens we will ask you to pack only the necessary gear for your next few days, and leave the rest at our safe deposit. This helps us keep the boats and cargo light.

Puerto Maldonado to Tambopata River Port. Skirting Puerto Maldonado, we drive 20 kilometers to the Tambopata River Port, entering the Native Community of Infierno. The port is a communal business.

Tambopata River Port to Refugio Amazonas. The two and a half hour boat ride from the Tambopata Port to Refugio Amazonas will take us past the Community of Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserves checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit.

Boxed Lunch.

Orientation. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.

Dinner.

Caiman searches. We will be out at the river's edge at night, scanning the shores with headlamps and flashlights to catch the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes.

Overnight in Refugio Amazonas.



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Day 2

Breakfast.

Parrot Clay Lick. After an early breakfast we will travel by boat fifteen and then hike for sixty minutes to a blind. From the blind next to the clay lick we will wait, watch and listen as dozens of parrots gather overhead. With luck we will see some or all of the following species in this early morning rush: Mealy and Yellow-crowned Amazons, Blue-headed Pionus, Dusky-headed Conure, Severe Macaw and Orange-cheeked (Barraband's) Parrot.

Lunch

Canopy Tower. A thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. The tower has been built upon high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. From here views of mixed species canopy flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely.

Dinner.

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Day 3

Breakfast.

Sachavacayoc Oxbow Lake: A two hour hike takes you to Sachavacayoc Lake. You will then paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of five giant river otters (seen by about 30% of lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. We hike out at dawn - when otters are active. Don't forget the two hour return hike! For those who do not want to take the long hike Condorado Lake, thirty minutes from the lodge, is an option.

Refugio Amazonas to Tambopata Research Center. Four and half hours by boat from Refugio Amazonas, in the pristine heart of the reserve, lies the Tambopata Research Center. One and half hours into our boat journey, as we cross the confluence with the Malinowski River, we will leave the final traces of human habitation behind. Within the 700,000 hectare uninhabited nucleus of the reserve, sightings of capybara, caiman, geese, macaws and other large species will become more frequent.

Boxed Lunch.

Orientation. Upon arrival, the lodge manager will welcome you and brief you with important navigation and security tips.

Overlook Trail. A three to five kilometer hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkey and Dusky Titi Monkey.

Dinner.

Macaw Project Lectures: After dinner scientists will provide an in depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations and the threats to their conservation.

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Day 4

Macaw Clay Lick. On most clear mornings of the year dozens of large macaws and hundreds of parrots congregate on this large river bank in a raucous and colorful spectacle which inspired a National Geographic cover story. Discretely located fifty meters from the cliff, we will observe Green-winged, Scarlet and Blue-and-gold Macaws and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay. Outings are at dawn when the lick is most active.

Breakfast.

Floodplain Trail: This five kilometer trail covers the prototypical rain forest with immense trees criss-crossed by creeks and ponds. Amongst the figs, ceibas and shihuahuacos we will look for Squirrel, Brown Capuchin, and Spider Monkeys as well as peccaries. TRC is located within this habitat.

Lunch.

Macaw project nest visit. A short hike from the lodge, we will stop and observe macaw project researchers at work as they climb trees to monitor natural and artificial nests. From thirty meters above, researchers will descend macaw chicks on plastic buckets strung down by a pulley. At ground level, they weigh and measure the chicks to monitor growth.

Dinner.

Night walk. You will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories.

Overnight in Tambopata Research Center.



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Day 5

Time- off. Time off to relax and enjoy the lodge surroundings, wander off on your own, try out a new trail, or repeat your favorite activity.

Breakfast.

Midmorning Macaw Clay Lick Visit. We will head out to the clay lick at 8 AM and wait for the arrival of the large macaws. By 9 or 10 AM over 100 Scarlet, Blue-and-gold and Green-winged Macaws should gather in the trees. Before descending to eat the clay the entire group usually flies en masse across the front of the lick. When the late morning sun lights up the birds, it is one of the most spectacular sights in the Amazon. Once the birds choose a safe spot, they will descend by the dozens to the lick. The Blue-and-golds grab bites of clay and fly back to the safety of the trees while the Scarlets and Green-wings sit on the lick and squabble over the best bits of clay. When the birds finish their visit to the lick we will return to the lodge.

Lunch.

Palm Swamp. A thirty minute hike from TRC brings us to the palm swamp. Dead aguaje palms serve as nests to Red-bellied and Blue-and-gold macaws. An elevated boardwalk and scaffolding tower allow for eye level observation of the macaws as they fly in and out of their nests.

Dinner.

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Day 6

Time- off. Time off to relax and enjoy the lodge surroundings, wander off on your own, try out a new trail, or repeat your favorite activity.

Breakfast

Tambopata Research Center to Refugio Amazonas. A three and a half hour boat ride brings us to Refugio Amazonas.

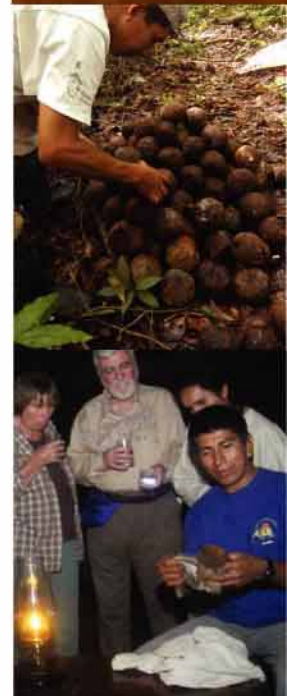
Boxed Lunch.

Brazil nut trail and camp: A few minutes hike from the lodge is a beautiful old growth patch of Brazil Nut forest that has been harvested for decades (if not centuries) where the precarious remains of a camp used two months a year by Brazil Nut gatherers can still be experienced. We will be demonstrating the whole process of the rain forest's only sustainably harvested product from collection through transportation to drying.

Dinner.

Tambopata National Reserve Lecture. Nightly lectures prepared by the staff of Refugio Amazonas cover conservation threats, opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve.

Overnight in Refugio Amazonas



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Day 7

Breakfast.

Transfer Boat - Refugio Amazonas to Tambopata River Port.

Transfer Tambopata River Port to Pto Maldonado Headquarters.

Transfer Pto Maldonado Headquarters - Airport. We retrace our river and road journey back to Puerto Maldonado, our office and the airport. Depending on airline schedules, this may require dawn departures.

Boat Transportation. All our boats are 20 foot long, roofed canoes with 55 hp outboard motors. Daily arrivals and departures from every port are scheduled to meet every airlines arrival and departure with a maximum two hour wait.



Includes: Programs based on double occupancy. Includes all meals, accommodations and services, all river transportation, and transfer from and to the airport of Puerto Maldonado.

Not Included: International or domestic airfares, airport departure taxes or visa fees, excess baggage charges, additional nights during the trip due to flight cancelations, alcoholic beverages or bottled water, sanacks, insurance of any kind, laundry, phone calls or messages, reconfirmation of flights and items of personal nature.

We reserve the right to change the order of activities.



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